

# PURE FACT SHEET

## What is a Portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of student work.

Portfolios show how well a student has learned using a variety of material.

### Portfolios can include

- ▶ papers or reports
- ▶ test results
- ▶ homework assignments
- ▶ projects
- ▶ presentations
- ▶ student thoughts and reactions (as in a journal)
- ▶ comments from others
- ▶ videotapes
- ▶ pictures
- ▶ anything else that shows you something about what that student can do and has done



### A good portfolio is...

- ✓ **Selective:** it's not just a collection of everything that a student has produced, but examples of the student's work over a specific period of time.
- ✓ **A clear story of the student's progress:** each item offers an important piece of information about what the student has accomplished. A portfolio can include student reflections on their own learning and progress.
- ✓ **Accurate and useful:** it shows what the student can actually do.
- ✓ **Understandable, easy to create, and easy to interpret:** making a portfolio is not a mysterious process that can only be carried out by someone who's been trained.

### Why portfolios are important

- ★ They provide a variety of ways beyond test scores for parents and schools to see how well children are doing.
- ★ They help you look at how well the school is educating children.
- ★ They provide evidence to show that your child is or is not ready to move on to the next grade.
- ★ They help parents look at which standards are being addressed, how to best determine if children are meeting standards, and how well schools are helping them.
- ★ They provide evidence of your child's own special talents and skills which grades or test scores may not measure.
- ★ They give parents a way to advocate for the best possible placement for your child (particularly in non-promotion reviews or admission to a high school of your choice).

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